1	2	3
Mumbai	61,834.80	45,310.86
Kolkata	69,005.91	47,315.94
Chennai	65,499.44	45,444.42

(c) and (d) This Ministry has received requests from various airlines and concerned organization for reducing taxes on ATF.

(e) State Governments have been requested to consider moderation of the rate of sales tax imposed on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) and align it with the 'Declared Goods' rate of 4%. Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers was also requested to consider moderation of the rate of sales tax imposed on ATF and reduce it to the 'Declared Goods' rate of 4%. The matter of ATF was also discussed in the national conference on Civil Aviation held on 18.1.2008 at New Delhi with the representatives of all State Governments and Union Territories. Based on the deliberations held in the Conference, a group of officers has been constituted with a view to present the ATF taxation issues to the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers as well as the Ministry of Finance.

Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Kerala have since reduced the sales tax on ATF to 4%. Government of Rajasthan has also reduced the sales tax on ATF to 4% in certain cases.

Government of Maharashtra has also reduced Sales tax on ATF from 25% to 4% for flights from airports other than Pune and Mumbai.

The matter of high price of ATF was also discussed in the meeting of the Committee constituted to examine various issues relating to the current financial crisis being faced by domestic airlines.

Difficulties of passengers at Delhi Airport

314. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry proposes to make certain changes in the Operation Management and Development Agreement (OMDA) signed between the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the Delhi International Airports Ltd. (DIAL) to end the difficulties being faced by passengers at the airport undergoing renovation;

(b) whether his Ministry also proposes to remove huge shortage of Immigration staff by recruiting non-police/non-intelligence persons well versed in scrutiny of documents and use of associated software;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Ministry of Finance has already sanctioned proposed staff for the purpose. Bureau of Immigration has deployed IB personnel to man maximum number of counters during peak hours, thereby reducing waiting time at Immigration as per norms set up by ICAO.

State-of-art airports

315. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the State-of-art airports inaugurated during the current financial year; and

(b) the details of the extent of participation of private sector in the construction of these airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) A new Green field airport called, Bangalore International Airport has been commissioned on 24th May, 2008 at Devanahalli near Bangalore.

(b) The Greenfield airport project has been implemented on Build Own Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis with Public - Private - Participation (PPP). Government of Karnataka (GoK) and Airports Authority of India (AAI) together hold 26% equity and a Consortium comprising of Siemens, Germany, Unique Zurich, Switzerland and Larsen and Toubro India Limited, hold the balance 74%.

Helicopter services in the country

316. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the infrastructure requirements for helicopter operations in India;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to import helicopters for commercial operations in India;

(c) whether civilian air routes have been chalked out for the purpose;

(d) if so, details thereof;

(e) the certification and licensing procedures for building helipads;

(f) whether there is a tariff regulating authority for commercial operations of helicopters in India; and

(g) whether the commercial operators are free to charge any fare to cover cost of operations and make profit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) At present dedicated infrastructure for operation of helicopters does not exist. The helicopters are operated from normal airports. However, at Mumbai, Juhu airport is being predominantly used for helicopter operations for off-shore flights.

(b) There is no proposal under consideration of Government to import helicopters. However, Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited has plans to buy 16 helicopters.

(c) No, Sir.